

THESIS



Dedicated to

# My Parents

(Who always inspired me to look ahead)

THESIS

your opinion, give up the policy you would normally pursue and pursue the policy somebody else wants you to pursue. Non-alignment is a right policy for us to adopt. If we did align we will neither be following the policy based on our ideals inherited from our past or the one neither indicated by our present nor will be able to adopt ourselves to the new policy consequent on such alignment".<sup>30</sup>

India's foreign policy which is based on non-alignment had demanded through NAM conferences the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflicts and has also demanded Israel's unconditional withdrawal from the Occupied Arab Territories, along with the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to go back to their own home 'Palestine'.<sup>31</sup>

India and the Arab world have shared common destiny in the past. In the recent past they have together built a resistance movement, when they were colonized. Indo-Arab national movement was very close affair against the onslaught of European Colonialism. Hence, it was but natural for Indian national movement and its leadership to oppose in all sincerity the British – Zionist colonization of Palestine.

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<sup>30</sup> Chander Prakash, *Studies in International Relations*, (New Delhi, 1986), p. 569.

<sup>31</sup> Political Quarterly, New Delhi, December, 1962, p. 13.

## *CHAPTER 2*

### *CREATION OF ISRAEL AND INDIA'S STAND AT VARIOUS STAGES*

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Secondly, India's Policy of non-alignment also did not match with Israel's defective membership of Western bloc, led by the US. During cold war Israel acted as a frontline state of western bloc in West Asia, it helped in US global plan of containment of the Soviet Union. A close relationship with Israel would have thus, seriously undermined the assiduously cultivated image of India as a champion of Third World's interest. All these factors taken together created a situation in which both ideologically and pragmatically it became imperative for India to be seen on the Arab side in their war of attrition against Israel.

It is essential to emphasize that a section, favouring normal and friendly relationship with Israel had always been there within the foreign policy establishment and the opinion-making institutions like the media and Universities. At times, it even permeated into the political circles. This was mostly due to the persistent lobbying of the Zionists in India.

With the changing international Scenario leading to the emergence of the new world (dis) order. The small section broadened its support base and gained enough, rather decisive, influence and credence within the decision making set up. Emphasis on pragmatism constituted the fundamental basis of its Pro-Israel pronouncements. Not surprisingly, this was the main plank on which the Jewish lobby had been operating in India. The fact remained that the so-called emphasis on pragmatism could not be seen in isolation. In international politics the terms like ideology and pragmatism cannot be counter-posed. Adherence to any particular Ideology cannot be devoid of

India did not want to freeze the Palestinian problem and the Arab-Israel conflict into another period of neglect. It continued to harpoon the international community to gain some momentum towards the solution of basic problems like ensuring restoration of their national rights. Withdrawal from the Occupied lands remained another corner-stone in the structure of lasting peace. In the general debate of the United National General Assembly, India's Foreign Minister stated: "If the catastrophe of another war in the Middle East is to be avoided, Israel should end its aggression and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be restored to them".<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Hindustan Times, 11 August, 1975

*CHAPTER - 3*

*INDO-ISRAELI RELATIONS*  
*FROM 1977 TO 1984*



## *CHAPTER 4*

# *TILT IN INDIA'S ISRAEL POLICY: NORMALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS*



## **CHAPTER - 4**

### **TILT IN INDIA'S ISRAEL POLICY: NORMALIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS**

In the second half of the eighties, India witnessed a change in political leadership. Rajiv Gandhi was elected as the Prime Minister of India on 24 December 1984 – Rajiv Gandhi, educated at Cambridge University, signaled a fresh Indian approach towards Israel and though unable to reserve the traditional Indian pro-Arab foreign policy completely, initiated a number of moves in favour of Israel.

On the other side, in Israel the National Unity Government was formed on 13 September 1984 and according to the coalition Shimon Peres became Prime Minister for two years. He was instrumental in bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon by June 1985. He made a major effort to improve Israel's foreign relations such as establishing diplomatic relations with Spain, Poland and some African countries and tried to improve relations with India. In the winter of 1985, during the fourth annual session of the United Nations, he met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New York and following the meeting, a new Vice Consul was allowed by the Government of India to take up his position in Israeli consulate in Bombay.

Earlier cardinal principles of Indian foreign policy had been maintained by Indira Gandhi and Janta Party. Rajiv Gandhi, though keeping the old policy, began to drift slowly away from USSR. This was because of the Soviet's Afghan policy. The West Asian policy under Rajiv Gandhi remained more or